

Avian Flu (H5N1)

There have been 4 newly confirmed cases of human infection, all of whom have died, bringing **the total number of WHO (World Health Organization) *laboratory confirmed* cases to 151, 82 which were fatal.**

There continues to be new cases reported in Turkey, but most of the cases have been exposed prior to the extensive public education campaign. Rapid surveys have found, in the most severely affected eastern part of the country, there is almost universal awareness of the disease and risk factors. However the virus is known to be present in birds in many parts of the country, so additional cases are likely. There is now a total of 21 laboratory confirmed cases in Turkey (4 of which have also been confirmed by WHO and included in the total reported above). Four people have died (all 4 were residents of Dogubayazit). All available evidence indicates that no sustained human-to-human transmission has occurred - contact with infected birds is the primary source of infection.

Indonesia has confirmed three additional cases (a 29-year old woman, a 13-year-old girl, and her four-year old brother), all who have died. China also confirmed an additional case (a 35-year-old woman who died).

The World Health Organization revised their Avian Influenza ("Bird Flu") Fact Sheet this month:

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/avianinfluenza_factsheetJan2006/en/index.html

H5N1 Pandemic Vaccine

Disappointing Vaccine Trials:

NIAID clinical trials of an H5N1 pandemic vaccine candidate have proven disappointing. The vaccine tested was substantially less immunogenic than interpandemic influenza vaccine and reportedly required two doses, each containing 90 micrograms of antigen, to elicit a satisfactory immune response. The NIAID is currently investigating other strategies, such as alternative routes of administration and the use of adjuvants to enhance immunogenicity. They are even considering pre-emptive vaccination to prime the population for an antibody response to a novel virus (Subbarao K, et al. Development of effective vaccines against pandemic influenza. *Immunity* 2006;24:5-9). These strategies likely assume that a pandemic will not occur for at least a couple of years. However, if this virus continues to adapt to humans as rapidly as it appears to be doing in Turkey, it is unlikely that sufficient vaccine will be available to avert a pandemic.

*From: Clinicians' Biosecurity Network Report, January 20, 2006
Published by the Center for Biosecurity of UPMC to present analysis of
recent events in biosecurity for healthcare providers*

*Avian Influenza Update: January 20, 2006 by Luciana L. Borio,
M.D.*

Pandemic Flu

One of our colleagues in Texas compiled a list of business continuity resources for pandemic flu planning - it looks pretty comprehensive. I thought you might find it helpful and am attaching it to this note.

And please continue to check our website for updates and additional information:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/pandemicflu/>

As always, if you have questions, comments, or concerns please let me know.

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BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING SITES FOR PANDEMIC INFLUENZA RESPONSE PLANNING

Reference to any private industry or professional association does not constitute an endorsement. The sites below were compiled in the spirit of information sharing. This document is intended neither as a comprehensive resource nor an official recommendation.

Resources from the Private Sector

Avian Flu: Preparing for a Pandemic (32 page PDF)
A report for employees and clients of Marsh on risk related topics.
http://www.marsh-asia.com/birca/white_paper.pdf

Example of a Pandemic Influenza Workplace Plan (12 page PDF)
Based on Shell Oil's workplace plans for operations in Oceana. The host website of this posting has numerous flu related planning resources.
http://www.med.govt.nz/irdev/econ_dev/pandemic-planning/infrastructure/example/example.pdf

Pandemic Flu Planning Guide for Infrastructure Providers (59 page Word Doc.)
The actual guidelines begin on page 14. Table 3 is of special interest.
Suggested Summary Actions for Infrastructure Providers for each Alert Code(New Zealand has adopted a PI alert code which seems practical and understandable for the public). Another good tool is their employee screening algorithm on page 36.
<http://healthcareproviders.org.nz/publication/documents/v9PandemicPlanningGuide.doc>

Planning Checklist in Brochure Form by Trust for America's Health Sorry (2 Page PDF)
<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/flu/FluBrochure.pdf>

National Fire Protection Association, NFPA, Guide to Business Continuity Planning for Disaster Scenarios (for purchase)
http://www.nfpa.org/catalog/product.asp?pid=160004&src=nfpa&order_src=A292

Contingency Planning Exchange, Inc.'s,CPE, Website
CPE posts influenza related topics on its website. Archive available to members.
<http://www.cpeworld.org>

Continuity Central, CC, Website
CC posts influenza related topics on its website, including WHO updates for business community and best practice recommendations.
<http://www.continuitycentral.com/asiapac2004.htm>

Occupational Health Disaster Emergency Network's, OHDEN, Website
Site is specific to pandemic influenza private industry workplace planning. This site has links to all state response plans.
<http://ohden.sph.unc.edu:9002/pandemic>

Government Resources

General Guidelines for Business Continuity Planning by FEMA

<http://www.ready.gov/business/st1-beinformed.html>

Emergency Management Guide For Business & Industry (FEMA's website is also an excellent resource for family disaster preparedness guides ~ recommended distribution to employees)
<http://www.fema.gov/library/bizindex.shtm>

HHS Pandemic Influenza Specific Business Continuity Checklist
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/tab4.html>

HHS Pandemic Influenza Tabletop Exercise Materials
<http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/pandemics/tabletopex.html>

Comprehensive Pandemic Preparedness PowerPoint Presentations From CDC and HHS
Sources are Posted on the Arizona Department of Health's Website
<http://www.azdhs.gov/pandemicflu>

Private Sector/ University Conferences that Touch on Pandemic Flu Planning

Council on Foreign Relations Conference on the Global Threat of Pandemic Influenza, Session 4: The Business Community's Role; November 16, 2005; (Video of conference and transcripts are available on CFR website)
http://www.cfr.org/publication/9282/council_on_foreign_relations_conference_on_the_global_threat_of_pandemic_influenza_session_4.html?breadcrumb=default

Bulls, Bears, and Birds: Preparing the Private Industry for Pandemic Influenza; September 23, 2005; New York
(Video of conference and transcripts are available on University of Pittsburg website)
<http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/pages/events/birds/index.html>

Continuity Insights; May 8-10, 2006; New Orleans (upcoming)
<http://www.continuityinsights.com/documents/showguidemed.pdf>

Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council; February 27th – March 1, 2006; Vancouver (upcoming, associations website - <http://www.epicc.org> - lists pandemic influenza planning topics/ resources)
<http://www.epiccforum.org/page130.htm>